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Message Text

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63
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 IO-04 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-05 L-01 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01 AF-04 OMB-01 ACDA-05 /075 W
---------- 039785
R 301558Z OCT 74
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1044
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
USINT ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
USMISSION GENEVA
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 13020

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

LONDON FOR LAMBRAKIS

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS; PFOR PINR PLO XF
SUBJ: PALESTINIAN INTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS

1. WHILE MOST EYES HAVE BEEN RIVETED ON PLO-JORDANIAN DRAMA
AT RABAT SUMMIT, SEVERAL OTHER DEVELOPMENTS WHICH MAY HAVE
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SIGNIFICAN IMPACT ON INTER-PALESTINIAN AND INTER-ARAB POLITICS

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HAVE SURFACED HERE. TO WIT:

2. LEADING BEIRUT DAILY AN NAHAR ON OCT 29 QUOTED "ARAB DIPLOMATIC SOURCES" TO EFFECT THAT AN UNIDENTIFIED "PALESTINIAN LEADER" TRAVELED FROM BEIRUT TO RABAT ON OCT 17 TO "FOLLOW UP" CASES OF 14 FATAH MEMBERS ARRESTED BY MOROCCAN AUTHORITIES ON CHARGES OF PLOTTING TO ASSASSINATE KING HUSSEIN. (WE NOTE LOCAL PRO-FEDAYEEN DAILY AL MUHARRIR REPORTED OCT 26 THAT--ACCORDING TO MOROCCO'S KING HASSAN--PLOTTERS' TARGETS INCLUDED NOT ONLY KING HUSSEIN BUT ALSO FOUR OTHER ARAB HEADS OF STATE). MISSION OF THIS MYSTERIOUS TRAVELER, WHO REPORTEDLY POSSESSED SOME KIND OF DIPLO-MATIC PASSPORT, WAS ALLEGEDLY TO SEEK GOM AGREEMENT TO FORMING HIGH-RANKING ARAB DELEGATION TO SUPERVISE INVESTIGATION OF ENTIRE AFFAIR AND GRANTING OF PUBLIC TRIAL TO THE ACCUSED. NAHAR'S INFORMANTS, WHO SAID TRAVELER HAS BEEN MENTIONED AS ONE OF THE PLOTTERS, REPORTED THAT ALL CONTACT WITH HIM WAS LOST SINCE HE ENTERED MOROCCO AND THAT HIS FATE AND WHEREABOUTS ARE CURRENTLY UNKNOWN.

3. ACCORDING TO PALESTINE NEWS AGENCY (WAFA) BULLETIN CARRIED OCT 28 IN RIGHT-WING DAILY AL HAYAAT, A FATAH "FIELD MILITARY COURT" WAS HANDED DOWN SENTENCES AGAINST SIX FEDAYEEN FOUND GUILTY OF "SUBVERSIVE" ACTS. (COURT ALLEGEDLY WAS FORMED ON 'ARAFAT'S ORDERS AUG 10, BUT DATE SENTENCES WERE HANDED DOWN WAS NOT REVEALED.) SABRI AL BANNA (ABU NIDAL), FORMER FATAH REP IN BAGHDAD, WAS SENTENCED TO DEATH IN ABSENTIA ON CHARGES RANGING FROM INCITEMENT TO ARMED INSURRECTION TO ATTENPTED MERDER (OF 'ARAFAT, PRESUMABLY). ANOTHER FEDA'I, MUSTAFA HASSAN MURAD ISMAIL, WAS SENTENCED TO DEATH FOR INCITING TO MURDER, BUT HIS SENTENCE WAS COMMITTED TO 7 YEARS HARD LABOR BECAUSE OF HIS "REPENTANCE". THREE OTHERS WERE SENTENCED TO VARYING TERMS AT HARD LABOR, WHILE A SIXTH WAS ACQUITTED. WITHOUT IDENTIFYING CULPRITS' ORGANIZATION (PRESUMABLY FATAH) OR POLITICAL ORIENTATION, WAFA SAID COURT HAD ACTED AGAINST "THE TERRORIST MENTALITY WHICH SEEKS TO DRIVE THE (PALESTINIAN) REVOLUTION FROM ITS REVOLUTIONARY COURSE TOWARD ASSASSINATION, CONSPIRACY AND INTRIQUE".

4. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH DATES CONFLICT SOMEWHAT, WE SUSPECT MYSTERIOUS TRAVELER REFERRED TO IN PARA 2 ABOVE MAY HAVE BEEN
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FATAH/BLACK SEPTEMBER ACTIVIST ABU DAOUD OR PERHAPS EVEN BSO CHIEFTAIN SALAH KHALAF (ABU IYAD). TO BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE KHALAF LEFT BEIRUT PRECIPITOUSLY OCT 20 BOUND FOR TRIPOLI. WOULD BE INTERESTING (AS WELL AS AMUSING) TO KNOW THAT HE OR ABU DAOUD HAS IN FACT ENDED UP IN MOROCCAN DETENTION. AS FOR OTHER FATAH DIE-HARDS MENTIONED PARA 3 ABOVE, THEY REPRESENT AN INDICATION THAT 'ARAFAT AND CO ARE PREPARED TO TAKE STEPS TO CONTEND WITH DISSIDENT, DIE-HARD SENTIMENT AMONG FATAH RANK-

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AND-FILE.
GODLEY

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